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IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A holding mechanism for holding a replacement ink ribbon comprising a feed bobbin located at one end of a strip film and a reel bobbin located at the other end of the strip film, comprising:

a first holding member having a feed bobbin receiving portion for receiving and holding the feed bobbin and a reel bobbin receiving portion for receiving and holding the reel bobbin, with the first holding member having an opening; and

a second holding member having a plate-shape for covering the opening of the first holding member, wherein

the first holding member is made of synthetic resin,

the second holding member is made of paper,—and

the second holding member has a cut-planned line,

the feed bobbin and the reel bobbin each comprising flanges at both ends thereof,

the feed bobbin receiving portion and the reel bobbin receiving portion each comprising flange receiving portions for receiving the corresponding flanges, and

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a lock portion is located at each flange receiving portion of the feed bobbin receiving portion and the reel bobbin receiving portion, which engages with a corresponding engagement portion of the flanges to function as a wind slack preventive portion.

2. (Currently Amended) The holding mechanism according to claim 1, ~~wherein~~ further comprising a wind slack preventive portion ~~is located~~ in at least one of the feed bobbin receiving portion and the reel bobbin receiving portion, for preventing a rotation of the feed bobbin or the reel bobbin.

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~ A holding mechanism according to claim 1, for holding a replacement ink ribbon, comprising:

a feed bobbin located at one end of a strip film and a reel bobbin located at the other end of the strip film;

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a first holding member having a feed bobbin receiving portion for receiving and holding the feed bobbin and a reel bobbin receiving portion for receiving and holding the reel bobbin, with the first holding member having an opening; and

a second holding member having a plate-shape for covering the opening of the first holding member, wherein

the first holding member is made of synthetic resin,

the second holding member is made of paper, and

the second holding member has a cut-planned line, wherein

the first holding member comprises a wind meandering preventive portion for preventing wind meandering of the strip film by contacting one side of the strip film ~~so as to~~ define control lateral movement of the film.

6. (Currently Amended) The holding mechanism according to claim 1, wherein the first holding member comprises a planar member having said opening thereon, a support portion that supports the first holding member such that, when the holding mechanism is ~~disposed~~ located on a plane surface with the

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opening facing upward, the planar member having the opening is substantially parallel with the plane surface.

7. (Original) The holding mechanism according to claim 6, wherein a bottom surface of the support portion is a flat surface.

8. (Original) The holding mechanism according to claim 1, wherein the feed bobbin receiving portion and the reel bobbin portion of the first holding member are so positioned that the feed bobbin receiving portion and the reel bobbin receiving portion can receive and hold the feed bobbin and the reel bobbin at an interval identical with that between the feed bobbin and the reel bobbin when printing.

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Previously Presented) The holding mechanism according to claim 1, wherein the second holding member has a cut-planned line at substantially the center portion thereof.

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11. (Previously Presented) The holding mechanism according to claim 10, wherein the cut-planned line comprises perforations.

12. (Currently Amended) The holding mechanism according to claim 1, wherein the second holding member further comprises, on a surface facing the first holding member, an index for loading ~~in place the replacement ink ribbon~~ in an ink ribbon loading apparatus.

13. (New) A holding mechanism in combination with a replacement ink ribbon, comprising:

a replacement ink ribbon comprising a feed bobbin located at one end of a strip film and a reel bobbin located at another end of the strip film,

a first holding member having a feed bobbin receiving portion for receiving and holding the feed bobbin and a reel bobbin receiving portion for receiving and holding the reel bobbin, with the first holding member having an opening; and

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a second holding member having a plate-shape for covering the opening of the first holding member, wherein

the first holding member comprises synthetic resin,

the second holding member comprises paper, and

the second holding member has a cut-planned line.

14. (New) The holding mechanism in combination with a replacement ink ribbon according to claim 13, further comprising a wind slack preventive portion located in at least one of the feed bobbin receiving portion and the reel bobbin receiving portion, for preventing a rotation of the feed bobbin or the reel bobbin.

15. (New) The holding mechanism in combination with a replacement ink ribbon according to claim 13,

wherein the feed bobbin and the reel bobbin each comprising flanges at both ends thereof, and

wherein the feed bobbin receiving portion and the reel bobbin receiving portion each comprises flange receiving portions for receiving the corresponding flanges.

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16. (New) The holding mechanism in combination with a replacement ink ribbon according to claim 15, wherein a lock portion is located at each flange receiving portion of the feed bobbin receiving portion and the reel bobbin receiving portion, which engages with a corresponding engagement portion of the flanges to function as a wind slack preventive portion.

17. (New) The holding mechanism in combination with a replacement ink ribbon according to claim 13, wherein the first holding member comprises a wind meandering preventive portion for preventing wind meandering of the strip film by contacting one side of the strip film to control lateral movement of the film.

18. (New) The holding mechanism in combination with a replacement ink ribbon according to claim 13, wherein the first holding member comprises a planar member having said opening thereon, a support portion that supports the first holding member such that, when the holding mechanism is located on a

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plane surface with the opening facing upward, the planar member having the opening is substantially parallel with the plane surface.

19. (New) The holding mechanism in combination with a replacement ink ribbon according to claim 18, wherein a bottom surface of the support portion is a flat surface.

20. (New) The holding mechanism in combination with a replacement ink ribbon according to claim 13, wherein the feed bobbin receiving portion and the reel bobbin portion of the first holding member are so positioned that the feed bobbin receiving portion and the reel bobbin receiving portion can receive and hold the feed bobbin and the reel bobbin at an interval identical with that between the feed bobbin and the reel bobbin when printing.



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21. (New) The holding mechanism in combination with a replacement ink ribbon according to claim 13, wherein the second holding member has a cut-planned line at substantially the center portion thereof.

22. (New) The holding mechanism in combination with a replacement ink ribbon according to claim 21, wherein the cut-planned line comprises perforations.

23. (New) The holding mechanism in combination with a replacement ink ribbon according to claim 13, wherein the second holding member further comprises, on a surface facing the first holding member, an index for loading replacement ink ribbon in an ink ribbon loading apparatus.